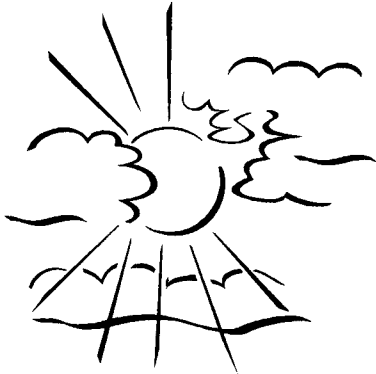


***Department  
of  
Human  
Services***

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394



\*Important story at this spot

# **Articles in Today's Clips**

## **Friday, August 12, 2005**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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Friday, August 12, 2005

## **July dims Michigan hopes of ending budget woes**

### **State takes in less than expected in taxes, but it's optimistic that more cuts can be avoided.**

By Mark Hornbeck / The Detroit News

**LANSING** -- Michigan's long budget nightmare may not be over.

State tax receipts fell by three-tenths of one percent in July, fiscal analysts reported Thursday, a major disappointment. After Michigan took in more money than expected in May and June, officials had begun to hope that the state's four-year period of deep and damaging budget cuts was ending.

The state has been forced to trim billions from spending for everything from education to health care to local government grants, while raising taxes and fees.

There's still hope of avoiding another round of deeper-than-expected cutbacks, since revenues for the year so far are 4 percent above last year.

"But everyone would feel better if July had been up," said Jay Wortley, senior economist for the Senate Fiscal Agency.

Friday, August 12, 2005

## Budget puzzles Michigan

By Mark Hornbeck / The Detroit News

**LANSING** -- Michigan's lagging economy continues to send mixed signals to state lawmakers, who soon must decide how much to trim from state spending next year to balance revenues that were unexpectedly weak in July.

Total July tax receipts for the state's general and school aid funds fell 0.3 percent from a year ago, officials said Thursday. The biggest problem was a 17 percent or \$41 million drop in business tax collections.

The news comes six days before a revenue-estimating summit, during which House and Senate budget-crunchers and the state treasurer will decide how much money the state has to spend. Gov. Jennifer Granholm and legislative leaders still are haggling over the budget for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. Officials were hoping that higher-than-anticipated revenues might temper budget cuts or allow for some tax relief.

"Revenue from the single business tax was lower than we thought it would be," said Jay Wortley, senior economist for the Senate Fiscal Agency.

But Wortley said the decline may be a timing issue. Taxes were due July 31, which was a Sunday, meaning a chunk of July collections may have spilled over into August. Analysts won't know for a few weeks whether that was the case.

There is still reason to be cautiously optimistic, Wortley said. For the May-July quarter, overall state revenues came in \$110 million above initial forecasts.

"Revenues are still tracking above what we thought they'd be," he said. But he added that the state's jobless rate continues to be a major concern. "We're getting some good economic news nationally... but we're still waiting for Michigan employment to improve."

The state's 6.8 percent unemployment rate remains the second-highest in the nation, behind Mississippi.

The most encouraging news: Sales tax on automobiles came in about equal to July of last year, the first time in 15 months that the state averted a major fall-off in those receipts.

Wortley said it was likely due to the employee discount promotions that buoyed domestic car sales this summer.

Rebecca Ross, senior economist for the House Fiscal Agency, said the most recent figures show state revenues are coming in at levels budget experts projected when they last convened in May.

"We're right about where we thought we'd be," Ross said.

Collections were up in July for taxes on sales, income, tobacco, insurance and casino wagering, the Senate Fiscal Agency reported.

Aside from the decline in single business tax receipts, collections also were down slightly in state education property, real estate transfer and inheritance taxes.

*You can reach Mark Hornbeck at (313) 222-2470 or [mhornbeck@detnews.com](mailto:mhornbeck@detnews.com).*

# Boom or bust?

State tax revenue dipped in July after rising in the previous two months:

KEY

2004

2005

\$2 billion

1.8

1.6

1.4

1.2

1.0

0.8

0.6

0.4

0.2

0.0

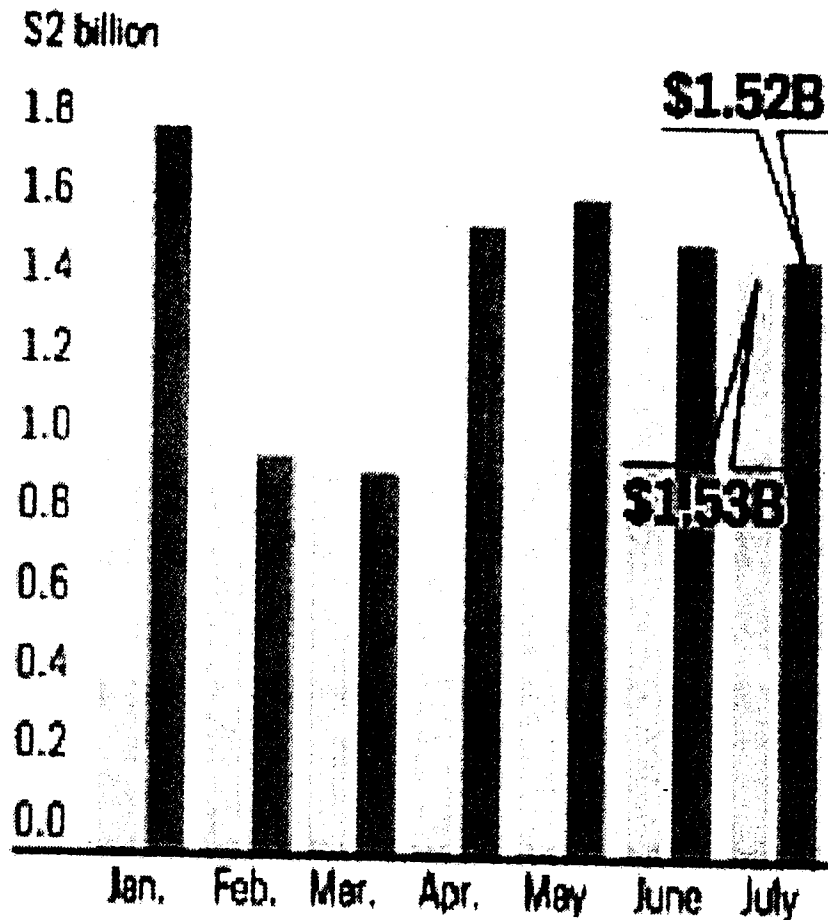
\$1.52B

\$1.53B

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July

Source: Senate Fiscal Agency

The Detroit News



# **Rescuers unable to save toddler**

## **19-month-old boy drowns in pool of Brighton Township residence**

Friday, August 12, 2005

BY ART AISNER

Ann Arbor News Staff Reporter

A toddler drowned in a swimming pool at a Brighton Township residence Thursday afternoon, according to a written statement from police.

The 19-month-old boy was transported by ambulance to St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital and then airlifted to an Ann Arbor-area hospital where he died, according to a news release from the Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

The department is investigating the incident, and preliminary information indicates it was accidental, the release said. No further information regarding the minor, his family or the pool's location was available Thursday.

Chief Marty DeLoach of the Brighton Area Fire Department confirmed that firefighters responded to a call about a possible drowning about 12:30 p.m., but refused to comment further about the victim or the incident, citing federal privacy laws.

"We can't discuss anything about what occurred because patient rights exceed our ability to do so," he said.

Calls to the sheriff's department were not returned Thursday.

The incident is the second drowning in Livingston County in as many days. Members of the sheriff department's dive team recovered the body of Eric Johnson, 18, of Highland, in Spring Mill Pond about two hours after he went missing Wednesday evening.

That incident remains under investigation by the Green Oak Township Police and the Livingston County medical examiner.

The sheriff's news release reminded residents to remain cautious near pools and other bodies of water, particularly those accessible to children.

*Detroit News*  
*August 12, 2005*  
*Livingston Briefs*

**Brighton Township**

## 19-month-old boy drowns in pool

The Livingston County Sheriff's Department said a 19-month-old toddler drowned in a Brighton Township swimming pool about 12:30 p.m. Thursday. According to the department, paramedics transported the toddler to St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital and the boy was then taken by helicopter to a hospital in Ann Arbor but doctors were unable to revive him. The accident remains under investigation and the department said no further information on the family or the child would be released.

# Infant May Have Drowned In Swimming Pool

## *One-Year-Old Airlifted To Ann Arbor Hospital*

POSTED: 4:29 pm EDT August 11, 2005

An infant may have drowned in a swimming pool in Brighton Township, according to the Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

The sheriff's department, Livingston County EMS and the Brighton-area fire department responded to the home at about 12:30 p.m. on Thursday after receiving a report that the child may have drowned.

The 1-year-old was taken to St. Joseph Livingston Hospital, and was later airlifted to an Ann Arbor-area hospital, where the child was pronounced dead.

The incident remains under investigation by the sheriff's department.

No further information was available about the infant or the infant's family.

The sheriff's department is reminding people to keep a close watch of children when near a swimming pool or other body of water.

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Published August 12, 2005

## **Emergency crews respond to series of drownings in five-day period**

### **In latest incident, Brighton Township 19-month-old dies**

Associated Press

Michigan authorities are dealing with a rash of drownings this week, including at least three in Livingston County since Sunday.

About 12:30 p.m. Thursday, police officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel responded to a Brighton Township home after receiving a call that a toddler possibly had drowned in a pool.

An ambulance transported a 19-month-old boy to St. Joseph Mercy Livingston Hospital in Howell. He then was flown to an Ann Arbor-area hospital but did not survive, according to a news release issued by the Livingston County Sheriff Department.

No further information was available, but an investigation was ongoing.

A day earlier, in the county's Green Oak Township, Eric Johnson, 18, drowned while swimming with friends in Island Lake Recreation Area's Spring Mill Pond, township police Sgt. Jason Pless said.

Early Sunday, Kevin Koeppen, 36, of White Lake Township in Oakland County, drowned in a swimming pool during a gathering at a home in Livingston County's Genoa Township.

About 10 a.m. Thursday, divers recovered the body of a 9-year-old boy who disappeared the previous evening while swimming in Lake Michigan at Holland State Park. The body was found in 15 feet of water near the Holland Channel.

Meanwhile, police in Grosse Pointe Park were trying to determine the identity of a man who apparently drowned while swimming in Lake St. Clair.

Two people near shore reported that the man went into the water for a swim Wednesday afternoon and drowned, the Police Department said in a statement.

The Coast Guard and a dive team from Grosse Pointe Farms found his body about 30 feet from shore.

#### **Recent drownings**

Thursday

- A 19-month-old Brighton Township boy died after possibly drowning in a pool.
- Divers recovered the body of a 9-year-old boy who disappeared Wednesday while swimming in Lake Michigan.

Wednesday

- An 18-year-old from Green Lake Township drowned in Island Lake Recreation Area's Spring Mill Pond.
- A man apparently drowned while swimming in Lake St. Clair. Police still are trying to determine his identity.

Tuesday

- A 3-year-old Lansing boy drowned in a lake at a Kent County park.

Sunday

- A White Lake Township man drowned in a swimming pool in Livingston County.

On Tuesday evening, Trey Taylor, a 3-year-old Lansing boy, drowned in a lake at a Kent County park while playing with an adult relative in 2 feet of water, according to the county Sheriff's Department.

Deputies said the boy disappeared beneath the surface of the water while the relative briefly turned away to watch other children playing.

# Leaving kids in hot car could soon be a crime

*August 12, 2005*

BY GINA DAMRON and FRANK WITSIL  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

As the temperature climbed in the black Chevrolet Cavalier, the two girls -- ages 2 and 3 -- hugged the window, open just a crack.

Their mother, Jali K. McLean, 27, of Detroit, had left them in the car, parked at Northland Center in Southfield, while she went to work at Marshall Field's on July 16, police said. A mall security guard found the girls in the car unharmed at 6:35 p.m. -- 2 1/2 hours after they were left. Oakland County prosecutors were not going to charge McLean with a crime because the children were unharmed. Police pressed the issue, and the city attorney charged McLean with reckless endangerment under a city ordinance, which carries up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Dozens of children die every year because they are left in hot cars. Legislators say Michigan and other states need tougher laws to prevent these deaths.

"There is a hole in the legislation," Charles Koop, the vice president of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and Antrim County Prosecutor said. "We're trying to change the statute."

A bill sponsored by Rep. Bill Van Regenmorter, R-Georgetown Township, that is up for consideration this fall would make it a crime for a person to intentionally leave a child in a hot car, whether there are injuries or not.

The maximum sentence would be imprisonment for one year. If a child were injured, the penalty would be stiffer -- up to 15 years in prison.

So far this year, 22 children have died from hyperthermia, including a 3-year-old boy in Weare Township in western Michigan, according to Kids in Cars, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, Mo. The most recent national death was Wednesday, of a 2-year-old boy in Kingsport, Tenn., the group said.

Van Regenmorter said people who accidentally leave their children in cars would be excluded from the proposed law. However, he said, too many people are using bad judgment, and the bill would criminalize such behavior.

"We can warn people over and over," Southfield Police Detective John Harris said Thursday.

"That doesn't seem to get the message across."

Harris said he was frustrated that McLean did not face more severe charges.

Prosecutors have been pressing for changes in Michigan's law since 2002, when Tarajee Maynor of Detroit left her 3-year-old son and 10-month-old daughter in a sweltering car for hours while she tried on clothes, got a massage and had her hair done. Both children died, and Maynor was charged with first-degree murder.

The case garnered national attention and inflamed public sentiment. Initially, a judge knocked down the charge to manslaughter, but both sides appealed the case to the state Supreme Court, which ruled that Maynor could be charged with first-degree murder. But, the court said, to convict her, the prosecution would have to prove that she intended to leave her children in the car to kill them.

Last year, before the case went to trial, Maynor pleaded guilty to second-degree murder. Oakland County prosecutors said it would have been impossible to convict her under the standard that the Supreme Court set. Maynor was sentenced to 12 1/2 years in prison.

Prosecutors said part of the problem with prosecuting parents who leave children in cars is that there are many variables to consider: the temperature outside, the amount of time the children were left alone and the age of the children.

Michele Struttman of Washington, Mo., who cofounded Kids in Cars in 1999, said Thursday that people leave their kids alone in vehicles all the time. A national poll commissioned by Kids in Cars in April surveyed 2,030 American adults about whether they had left a child younger than 12 alone in a vehicle. Thirty percent of those with children said they had -- mostly at gas stations, convenience stores and in their own driveway or garage.

On Thursday, while loading his daughters -- Taylor, 6, and Nyah, 18 months -- into his 2004 Nissan Quest at the Northland Center, Norm Roasa of Oak Park said that there are times when it might be OK to leave a child in a car for just a few minutes, but that he would not do it for long periods.

"If you're in good view of your children, and it's just like 10-feet away," Roasa said.

But Struttman said no amount of time is safe to leave a child alone in a car, and she has the statistics to back that up: Kids in Cars tracks every reported incident involving children left in cars. Last year, 35 children were left in hot cars and died. In 2003, the number was 43.

"A vehicle is not a toy," she said. "It's not a playground. It's not a babysitter."

*The bill pending in the Legislature is HB 4738.*

*Contact FRANK WITSIL at 248-351-3690 or [witsil@freepress.com](mailto:witsil@freepress.com).*

Published August 12, 2005

## **Teacher admits to sex affair with boy**

Associated Press

KINGSTON - A married 27-year-old English teacher was arraigned on eight counts of criminal sexual conduct after police and prosecutors said she had a four-week affair with a 16-year-old student.

Kristen A. Margrif of Mayville faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted on seven counts of third-degree and one count of fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. She is free on a \$45,000 personal recognizance bond until her next court appearance Aug. 22.

During the Wednesday arraignment, police and prosecutors alleged Margrif met the student eight times for sex between June 25 and July 18, including in her car and at the teen's summer job.

State police said the four-year employee of Kingston Community Schools admitted the affair to her husband, then consulted a pastor, who was bound by state law to report knowledge of a possible crime against a student and minor.

August 12, 2005

Traverse City Record-Eagle

## **Double identity case exposes system faults**

The Arthur Kirk/Arthur Kirkeby identity incident has grown well beyond the issue of whether the state police or an intermediate school district did enough to check the background of an AmeriCorps volunteer.

The case has also exposed the fact that the state's basic background check system, which we rely on to do everything from protect kids from sexual predators and society from career criminals and terrorists, failed. And may have failed many times before this.

It's a scary situation that must be resolved now.

The whole thing came to light when Arthur Kirk, an AmeriCorps volunteer for the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District, was fingerprinted when he applied for a concealed weapons permit.

What that check found was that Arthur Kirk was also Arthur Kirkeby, a convicted sex offender with a long criminal history who now faces multiple felony charges.

That news was disturbing enough. Worse was the revelation that a Michigan State Police check of Kirk's name requested by the ISD had turned up nothing, simply because Arthur Kirkeby had legally become Arthur Kirk.

That means the state's major background check system, the Internet Criminal History Access Tool, can be fooled by a simple name change, even when the person changing his name is a convicted felon.

State police say that if a name fed into the system does not bring up a match, that's it. Other indicators don't come into play. The background check on Kirk did not show the name change, did not show that two names shared the same Social Security number, did not show that a convicted child molester had been able to build a new identity, complete with driver's license and passport, and had even purchased handguns.

Charlevoix County Sheriff George Lasater and county Prosecutor John Jarema have asked state lawmakers for new laws mandating criminal background checks that would include both state and federal fingerprint reviews for anyone - employee or volunteer - working with children. That's a start.

State Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire, said the Legislature is already considering a similar package of bills and he'll see how those compare to what Lasater and Jarema requested.

But Elsenheimer also rightly pointed out that even though Kirk is a convicted felon he was able to purchase three handguns simply by changing his name.

That situation must also be fully explored. State officials need to know if it has happened before, who did it, and close that door for good.

This should be a major red alert for state officials. Arthur Kirkeby shed his criminal past simply by changing his name. The question now is what else have others gotten away with?

# Jury convicts video game defense killer

Thursday, August 11, 2005; Posted: 4:46 a.m. EDT (08:46 GMT)

FAYETTE, Alabama (AP) -- A 20-year-old whose lawyers claimed the video game "Grand Theft Auto" and childhood abuse caused him to kill three small-town police officers was convicted Tuesday of capital murder.

The jury deliberated for just over an hour before convicting Devin Moore.

Jurors on Wednesday began deliberating Moore's sentence. He could receive the death penalty.

Defense lawyers had partly blamed Moore's actions on the hours he spent playing video games from the "Grand Theft Auto" series, in which players shoot police officers and steal cars.

While the judge barred jurors from hearing testimony linking the 2003 shootings to the game, defense lawyer Jim Standridge reminded them that Moore, after his arrest, told police "Life is a video game; everybody has to die sometime."

Moore had pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental defect.

His family and friends left court without comment, while the victims' relatives and friends gathered to hug and thank prosecutors.

Prosecutor Lyn Durham said Tuesday that Moore knew what he was doing when he grabbed a patrolman's gun and killed two officers and a radio dispatcher.

"And he knew it was wrong," she said.

Officers had taken Moore to police headquarters for booking on a stolen auto charge. Authorities said Moore, who was 18 at the time, grabbed one of the officer's guns and fatally shot all three victims in the head before fleeing in a patrol car.

The victims' families have filed a civil suit against the video game manufacturer and two stores, claiming Moore killed the three after repeatedly playing "Grand Theft Auto III" and "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City." No trial date has been set in the civil lawsuit.

A spokesman for Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc., parent company of "Grand Theft Auto" manufacturer Rockstar Games, did not immediately return calls Tuesday seeking comment.

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Lansing State Journal

August 11, 2005

Letters to the editor

## Games aren't helpful

I am a 10-year-old fifth-grader who plays video games.

I don't think video game sellers should make or sell violent video games.

If I got a violent video game (not to say I would) and I played it a lot, say three to six hours a day, I would think that since grown-ups made this game, that would make it OK to act like the people in the game.

If the grown-ups made it and shopkeepers sell it to you and your parents let you play it, then it must be OK how those people in the game are acting and then it's OK to be like them.

I saw in the news this one game called "Bully." I think it looked really bad. I really don't think video game makers should sell or make violent video games.

Grace French

Okemos



# Parents ask Ottawa to fund care home

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

By Greg Chandler  
The Grand Rapids Press

OTTAWA COUNTY -- Some Ottawa County residents who have adult children with disabilities are pleading with county officials for help in the care of their loved ones.

They want the county's Community Mental Health department to approve additional Medicaid funding support for Jenison-based Harbor House Ministries, which recently completed construction on a second residential home for adults with severe physical, mental and developmental disabilities.

"I don't know what to do anymore," said Julie Donaghey, of Robinson Township, whose 21-year-old daughter, Tiffany Olney, has Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome. Donaghey says Olney had been admitted to the new Harbor House home, but CMH will not pay to support her placement there.

"I don't want to wait until it's too late. I don't have anywhere to put my kid."

CMH officials say they don't have the funds available to pay for the additional support, and they add Harbor House represents a step toward institutionalization. "It's akin to nursing home care," CMH Executive Director Gerry Cyranowski said.

Cyranowski says that smaller, family-run adult foster care homes are a more cost-effective solution for clients such as Olney.

CMH provides full Medicaid funding support for nine residents and partial support for a 10th at Harbor House's first group home, at an annual cost of \$750,000. The agency's funding covers personal care and community living support for residents, Cyranowski said.

However, when Harbor House proposed two more 12-bed homes, Cyranowski said he warned the organization CMH might not be able to provide financial support to place clients in that facility.

"Our budget simply cannot carry the weight of those kind of expenses," Cyranowski said. CMH has a \$29 million budget, nearly 80 percent of which is funded by Medicaid.

But the parents who spoke at Tuesday's board meeting say the around-the-clock care their adult children need is exacting a heavy price.

Karen Hansen, of Holland Township, who cares for her 21-year-old son, David, is struggling with back problems and breast cancer.

She is expected to undergo radiation treatment and surgery next month.

"This is really taking a toll on what used to be a very energetic person," Hansen said. "It's too hard to care for David on my own."

Michelle Van Klompenberg, of Zeeland Township, has been taking care of her 19-year-old adoptive daughter, Nichole, since 1994. Nichole has cerebral palsy and has had four urinary tract infections in the past 10 months.

"She's bigger, she's heavier, she's taller," Michelle Van Klompenberg said. "Her equipment is bigger, and it's becoming more difficult (to take care of her)."

Kathy Schipper, of Jenison, says she is stumped by CMH's opposition to funding, given the strong local support the project has had. Harbor House has raised about \$2.2 million to fund development of its home, she said.

The county board plans to hold a special work session next week to further discuss the parents' concerns and any potential response.

# **Man beat wife with bat, police say**

Friday, August 12, 2005

Kalamazoo Gazette Staff Reports

A 38-year-old man accused of beating his estranged wife with an aluminum baseball bat and hitting her daughter was charged Thursday with attempted murder and felonious assault.

The man, who was not identified by the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department, was arrested Thursday at the scene of the attack, at an Oshtemo Township mobile-home park, Lt. Terry VanStreain said. He was lodged in the Kalamazoo County Jail. According to police, a 24-year-old woman and her 9-year-old daughter were struck by the man with the bat. The woman, who was not identified, underwent surgery at Bronson Methodist Hospital on Thursday for injuries to her brain. Police said Thursday evening they did not know her condition or how many times she was struck.

The girl, who was not identified by police, was also taken to Bronson and is believed to have a broken wrist. Police said she was struck twice in the arm.

An ambulance was called to a residence in the 1000 block of Colonial Trail in the Chateau Manor mobile-home park at about 8 a.m. Thursday, VanStreain said. He said the suspect had dialed 911.

VanStreain said the altercation began when he asked her for a ride and she refused.

``And in his words, he said he just snapped," VanStreain said.

## **Man accused of beating woman and her daughter with bat**

WOOD TV 8

(Kalamazoo County, August 11, 2005, 5:10 p.m.) A Kalamazoo County woman and her daughter are both in the hospital after police say the woman's estranged husband beat the pair with a baseball bat.

The child may have a broken wrist, but her mother is in much worse shape as investigators say she suffered severe injuries.

Kalamazoo County sheriff's deputies were called around 8 a.m. Thursday to the Chateau Manor Trailer Park in the 1000 block of Colonial Trail in Oshtemo Township. That's where they found a 25-year old mom and her nine-year-old daughter severely beaten.

"The 25-year old female had been struck repeatedly about the head and body area with a metallic baseball bat," Lt. Terry Van Strain of the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department told 24 Hour News 8.

Van Strain says the main suspect, the woman's estranged husband, admitted hitting the pair to investigators.

"There's been ongoing problems with the relationship and this morning, supposedly, he wanted a ride to work, she refused to give it to him and, as he stated, he snapped and proceeded to strike her repeatedly with a ball bat," Van Strain adds.

The 38-year-old suspect in the Oshtemo Township case is expected to be charged Friday with assault and attempted murder.

All of this comes on the same day Jenny McEldowney is launching a new anti-domestic violence campaign. She runs S.A.F.E. Place, a shelter in Battle Creek. Her hope is to prevent what happened in this trailer park by getting men of the community to take a stand.

Men commit 95 percent of domestic violence. She says the issue is not just a woman's problem. "Especially the male leaders, especially the good men, have a real chance here to be mentors, to be role models, to be leaders, and break the cycle."

McEldowney is asking men in West Michigan to contact their local domestic violence shelter and see how they can volunteer.

Published August 12, 2005

## Domestic violence: Breaking the cycle

By Tracy Burton  
Lansing State Journal

Attention attorneys: Area domestic violence survivors need legal help. Pro bono.

A statewide training seminar - set for Aug. 25 - will highlight their greatest legal needs. Among them: personal protection orders, divorce and custody help. Attorneys will be trained on what to expect in cases that involve domestic violence through a live video and a panel discussion with local judges, Friend of the Court officials and community advocates.

In exchange, attorneys will be asked to give 30 hours of service to domestic violence survivors or to take on three cases for free within a year.

The training is meant to give survivors access to meaningful civil justice - something that most can't afford, said Katy Conklin, an attorney with the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

"We are the agents of that," Conklin said. "We need to use our skills and talents to benefit those who are in most need. ... Every attorney should step up and do their pro bono part."

The project - held every two years and in its third session - is put together by the State Bar of Michigan Standing Committee on Justice Initiatives and the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Attorneys from Legal Services of South Central Michigan can help some domestic violence survivors, but nine lawyers serve the tri-county area and Barry, Shiawassee and Livingston counties, staff attorney Ray Nicol said.

The services are income-based, and a large group of people typically make more than the allowed amount, yet not enough to hire an attorney, said Nicol, who will serve as the project's local team leader.

"We can't take every case that walks in the door ... unfortunately," he said. "We just don't have the resources."

Nicol hopes to see hundreds of attorneys sign up for the training - and help more people.

Everyone needs to work together to stop domestic violence, especially for children who see it at home, Nicol said. "We're creating the next generation," he said. "The attorney can help break that cycle."

### Attorneys invited to attend seminar

- Between Aug. 1, 2004, and Aug. 1, 2005, at Legal Services of South Central Michigan: Of the 437 cases involving domestic violence that came through the office, only 149 were able to have attorneys assigned to them.

- Training will take place at Michigan State University, Grand Valley State, Oakland Community College, Saginaw Valley State, Wayne State and University Center at Gaylord.

- For more information about the training, contact Katy Conklin at [kconklin@mcadsv.org](mailto:kconklin@mcadsv.org) or call 347-7000, ext. 33.

- To register, call (800) 968-1442, ext. 6396.

Contact Tracy Burton at 377-1206 or [tburton@lsj.com](mailto:tburton@lsj.com).

Friday, August 12, 2005

## Actor: Domestic violence concerns everyone

Trace Christenson  
*The Enquirer*

Victor Rivers watched his father beat his mother. He also was beaten, tied up and locked in a closet. His father denied him all but one meal a day — at 1 a.m. Finally, the young boy walked into a police station, stripped his clothes, exposed the bruises and welts and cigarette burns and asked the officers to arrest his dad.

"My father had become a terrorist," Rivers told about 75 people in Battle Creek on Thursday at the Men For Change Campaign to support S.A.F.E. Place.

Rivers, an actor who has appeared in more than two dozen films, also is a spokesman for the National Network to End Domestic Violence and was the keynote speaker for the campaign luncheon in the Heritage Dome Center.

His message: "Love should never hurt. A fist is not love." Men For Change is designed to change the perception of domestic violence as a women's issue to a community issue.

"It isn't a women's issue," Rivers said. "It should be everyone's issue."

One in three women in America is a victim of domestic violence; Rivers said he regularly watched his father beat his mother. He kicked her so severely while she was pregnant, Rivers said, that his brother was born with a severe developmental disability and died before he was 9.

He said his mother suffered mental and emotional abuse and "he beat her with cold, methodical planning."

Rivers, who appeared in the movies "The Mask of Zorro," "Blood In/Blood Out," "The Distinguished Gentleman" and several television programs, including "C.S.I. Miami," "Jag," "Star Trek" and "24," said communities must ensure that the problem of domestic violence is brought into the open.

Rivers, 49, has written a memoir about his experiences called "A Private Family Matter."

"No longer can violence against women and families be considered a private family matter," he said. "It still remains the most under-reported crime in America."

Supplies needed  
S.A.F.E. Place, a Battle Creek shelter for victims of domestic violence is accepting financial donations as part of the first Men For Change campaign.

To make donations, call the shelter at 965-6093.

Besides money, a wish list includes:

Volunteers.

Alarm clocks.

Bus tokens.

Vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters.

Industrial grade washers and dryers.

Phone system.

Carpet.

Work on front brickwork.

Clean eaves troughs.

Repair sewer line

Facts about domestic violence  
S.A.F.E. Place, a Battle Creek shelter, served 1,500 people in 2004 and 54 percent of them were children.

300,000 women are assaulted in the United States while they are pregnant.

10 million children in this country have witnessed domestic violence.

The United States has the highest rate of domestic violence of all industrialized countries.

Domestic violence kills 11 women every day.

Between 3 million and 4 million people are victims of domestic violence in the United States each year and only 38 percent of the assaults are reported.

Source: S.A.F.E. Place

Jennifer McEldowney, executive director of S.A.F.E. Place, said River's message was powerful. "I thought he was right on target," she said. "It is one thing for me to say we need you, but it is another thing for a big football player who lived it to say we need you."

Rivers, who played for Florida State University and for the Miami Dolphins, encouraged the audience to take a stand against domestic violence by talking about the issue and giving money to combat it.

"There is no greater way to honor the victims than to take a stand against violence," he said. "The cycle of violence can be broken."

One of those who attended the program, T.R. Shaw of Shaw Funeral Homes said the message is that domestic violence "needs to be brought into the open, that it still goes on and it still is happening and all of us here have the responsibility to keep this in the open."

McEldowney said the first-time fundraiser should net about \$7,000 for operations of the shelter. "We now hope that the campaign will turn into a movement and we can make this an ongoing thing," she said.

*Trace Christenson covers crime and courts. He can be reached at 966-0685 or [tchrist@battlecr.gannett.com](mailto:tchrist@battlecr.gannett.com).*

Originally published August 12, 2005

# Child to cost \$7K per month

Friday, August 12, 2005

DARRYL Q. TUCKER

THE SAGINAW NEWS

Just five years ago, a judge ordered basketball player Jason Richardson to pay \$8 a week in child support for his 5-year-old daughter.

Thursday, Saginaw County Circuit Court Family Division Judge Patrick J. McGraw ordered the star guard/forward with the National Basketball Association's Golden State Warriors to pay \$7,000 a month.

Still, it's a fraction of the \$45,426 per month his former girlfriend, Roshonda Jacqmain of Saginaw, requested in a hearing last week.

"We are very pleased with the judge's opinion," said Richardson's lawyer, Bloomfield Hills attorney Richard S. Victor. "The judge followed the law, and he protected the child. That's all Mr. Richardson wanted."

Victor said he talked to Richardson, 24, Thursday and the Saginaw native was elated with the decision.

McGraw also ordered Richardson to place \$1,000 per month in a conservatorship account.

Payments to that account will end when the girl is 18 or graduates from high school.

Richardson also must place \$100,000 in a trust for his daughter at the beginning of each contract year, continuing to the end of his six-year NBA contract. Richardson is the named trustee on the account, and he will choose a financial institution for the trust.

"The monies shall be used for (the child) and available to her after she obtains the age of majority to her education and living needs," McGraw wrote in his opinion. "The trust shall be payable over the time period from the age of majority with excess funds from and during her educational years to a maximum age of 30."

State child support laws are designed only to meet the financial needs of the children, Victor said.

The judge had raised the initial amount since the original ruling in 2000. In August 2001, McGraw increased the support payment to \$2,000 monthly, and later set it at \$4,000, plus the \$1,000 monthly payment to a conservatorship, court records show.

CONTINUED



# Child to cost \$7K per month

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McGraw also ordered Richardson to maintain his daughter's health care.

Victor said it's impossible for him to know what motivated Jacqmain to seek \$45,000 a month in tax-free support.

Jacqmain had testified during a court hearing that she spent \$3,400 per month to support the child, Victor said.

Jacqmain's Saginaw Township attorney, Brian S. Makaric, was not immediately available for comment.

He had denied any inference that his client is seeking too much money.

"It is hoped that both parents truly act as parents with this minor child," McGraw wrote. "This child has the ability to be nurtured and fostered during her formative and growth years by two loving parents.

"This child's well-being and future should be the No. 1 priority for each parent, and both parents should realize that they are blessed to have a child who can be provided for without hardship."

The child support request was prompted partly by Richardson's signing of a six-year contract with his team, boosting his salary next season to \$8.9 million, court records state.

That salary rises annually to \$14.4 million in 2010, records indicate. Citing the increase,

Jacqmain was seeking \$73,048 in monthly child support payments that year.

Jacqmain now resides in a "modest" home in Saginaw with her daughter and is unemployed, Makaric has said. She is a year from finishing a bachelor's degree at Davenport University with a focus on health information technology.

Darryl Q. Tucker covers courts for The Saginaw News. You may reach him at 776-9686.

# Wages are real farm-work issue

## GOP bid on guest workers is just sop to agribusinesses

Salud Zamudio-Rodriguez came to the United States from Mexico nearly 25 years ago to do — as President Bush likes to say — “jobs that Americans won’t do.”

Some people hate that phrase, angrily insisting that the issue isn’t work ethic but wages, and that there is no job that Americans won’t do if the price is right.

Is that so? I wonder what the asking price would be to work alongside Zamudio-Rodriguez picking bell peppers near Arvin, Calif., in the southern San Joaquin Valley, where summer temperatures soar to 108 degrees.

Having come to the United States in 1981 and received his green card, 42-year-old Zamudio-Rodriguez labored for pennies. Farm workers in California usually make minimum wage. Under the state’s minimum wage law, that pencils out to \$6.75 an hour.

That’s considerably less than the asking price of one of my U.S.-born readers who boasted that he would gladly pick lettuce — for \$1,000 per week.

Even if a lettuce grower were willing to pay that, he would simply pass that cost onto the customer. And a Cobb salad would be as pricey as caviar.



RUBEN NAVARRETTE

Of course, Americans won’t pay those prices for produce. They’ll simply shop for less expensive alternatives. That gives farmers little incentive to boost workers’ wages.

What farmers and other employers have an incentive to do is bring in more workers. That’s why management loves the idea of so-called guest workers, a temporary (and thus disposable) work force. Whenever employers get the itch, they turn to Republicans in Congress, with whom they have long had a relationship that resembles the one between the organ grinder and the monkey.

The latest members of Congress to monkey around with the idea of establishing a temporary worker program are Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. These border-state senators have drafted legislation called the Comprehensive Enforcement and Immigration Reform Act of 2005.

The bill is a gift for employers. It establishes a new visa category to allow foreign workers to enter the United States to work temporarily (up to two years). Workers

can reapply and participate for a total of six years.

I don’t understand why lawmakers insist on catering so much to employers. Especially when human nature tells us that, the easier it is for someone to get something, the less likely he is to take care of it.

No one took care of Salud Zamudio-Rodriguez. According to media reports, on July 13, he tried to keep up when the tractor, which sets the pace of the picking, suddenly sped up on orders from the foreman. Whereas the usual speed allows workers to pick three buckets of bell peppers in 15 minutes, with time for a drink of water, the faster pace required them to pick double that in the same amount of time with no water. Near the end of the day, Zamudio-Rodriguez complained that he wasn’t feeling well. Suddenly, he collapsed. An ambulance was called. En route to the hospital, Zamudio-Rodriguez died.

A lot of Americans probably don’t care what happens to people like Salud Zamudio-Rodriguez. But they should at least have the decency not to insult his memory, and those of others, by insisting that people like him are taking jobs that Americans are dying to do.

What do you think? Write Ruben Navarrette Jr., Washington Post Writer’s Group, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20071.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 10, 2005**

## **Bingman Named Deputy Chief of Staff for Cabinet Affairs and Management**

LANSING – Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today announced the appointment of Teresa A. Bingman as Deputy Chief of Staff for Cabinet Affairs and Management in the Executive Office. Bingman is currently the deputy legal counsel and criminal justice advisor in the Governor's office.

"Teresa is a skilled leader with a strong work ethic and tireless enthusiasm," Granholm said. "I am confident she will help my Cabinet provide the best service possible to the citizens of Michigan."

Bingman's duties as deputy legal council included advising the Governor on emergency management and homeland security issues and criminal justice policy issues related to the Department of Corrections and the Michigan State Police. She has also been the Governor's representative on the Detroit Medical Center Task Force, served as staff lead in negotiating the Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority Interlocal Agreement, and helped coordinate the state's response to the 2003 Michigan blackout.

Bingman, 42, holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma State University and a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Oklahoma. She served as assistant attorney general in the Attorney General's Office under Granholm. While there, she served in a regulatory role in the Casino Control Division, prosecuted crimes committed against the people of Michigan in the Criminal Division, and handled policy issues and legislative affairs in the Executive Division.

Prior to being appointed by then Attorney General Granholm, Bingman served as an assistant prosecutor for the General Counsel of the Oklahoma Drug Bureau and later as managing attorney for the UAW-GM Legal Services Plan in Oklahoma City and Flint.

Bingman will replace out-going Cabinet Secretary Lisa Webb Sharpe who was recently named director of the Michigan Department of Management and Budget. Bingman is scheduled to begin her duties immediately.

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